Xbox Ambassadors Celebrate International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples 2024

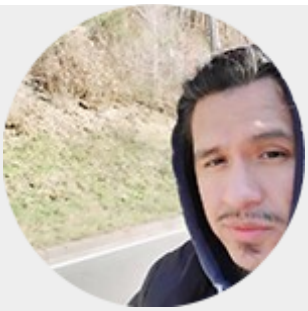
Announcements Xbox Ambassadors Team Aug 9, 2024

Hey Xbox Ambassadors, today is International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples and we’re celebrating by sharing stories from members of the Xbox Ambassadors community. Read on below to hear from Xbox Ambassadors directly about their experiences as gamers. To learn more about other ways Xbox is celebrating IDWIP this year, check out Xbox Wire.

When asked to share aspects of the Xbox community that help them feel included and valued, Ambassadors mentioned participating in research about upcoming games, a helpful vibe in the community, the ability to express themselves openly, and of course playing multiplayer games.

KingSludgy

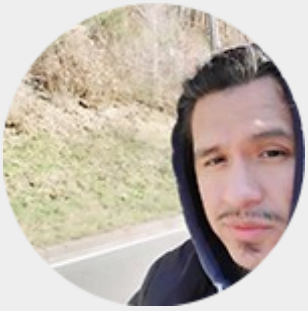
“Recently I was involved in a study, and in that study one of the main characters was of indigenous background and had long hair. It was the first time I’ve seen that and it was amazing to experience that moment.”



R1ZZyD1ZZy
“Hosting customs in a variety of games, specifically Halo Infinite”

Ambassadors also shared favorite memories that helped solidify their love for gaming, including being introduced to Halo 3 by family, maintaining social bonds in the pandemic, and finding new ways to see the world.

CosmicWolf58567
“Good times and good memories. One of my first gaming experiences ever was seeing my cousins play Halo 3 some time around its release, when I saw them play I was stunned by how fun and amazing it looked. I played it for the first time shortly after, I wasn’t good at all but still it was fun.”



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“it’s therapeutic; I get to see the world from a different angle/perspective; thus, when I go back to my daily offline activities, I’m more refreshed and can attack problems with a better sound judgment; hosting customs for others through Xbox/Discord Parties keeps my humanity intact; human connection is important [if COVID taught us anything, it’s that]; the world

already has too much negativity, and so I like to run my parties w/kindness and firmness on treating each other with respect”

We also asked Ambassadors to share specific video games or characters that do a good job representing Indigenous Peoples, and they had several recommendations to share (with Assassin’s Creed franchise being the most frequently mentioned).

Magis123

“Assassin’s Creed III, Never Alone, Prey – are the first three that come to mind with characters that are compelling and not forced into the games.”

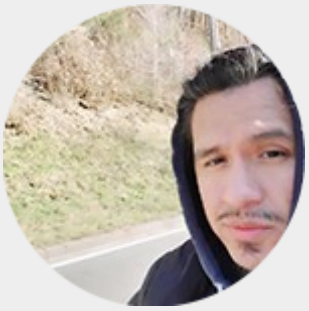
We asked Ambassadors how the gaming industry can do a better job at positively representing Indigenous Peoples, experiences, and stories. They had several recommendations that we’re happy to share here.

KingSludgy

“Make more games about us, using us as voice actors and our ancestral stories. To teach everyone and those reconnecting.”

CosmicWolf58567

“Maybe have more characters that are indigenous. Perhaps even games that have indigenous roots like North American indigenous folklore, Like the thunder eagle, or even the migration myth of the Ho-Chunk nation”



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“Reflecting indigenous topics via cosmetics, main characters in campaign modes, social media presence acknowledging factual history, etc.”

Lastly, we asked Ambassadors about any tips, advice, or safety tools they recommend that other players use to stay safe online. They gave lots of good tips, especially around keeping personal information private and using the block tool when needed.

CosmicWolf58567

“Don’t give out personal information like names, addresses, or anything else like that. Don’t try to let other people get to you since some people will get angry and try to direct their anger towards you. I have settings set to hide my real name on my Xbox profile but share it with those I trust/know in real life.”

Magis123

“I have no need to use the tools other than the block button. But I can definitely see and have seen how such safety tools benefit gamers.”

That concludes our blog celebrating International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples this year, but you can continue celebrating in these ways:

- Read the Xbox Wire article for more ways Xbox is celebrating
- Check out this curated list of games featuring Indigenous creators and characters